



Maine ATV Trail Advisory Council

Report



February 1, 2006

Prepared for:

**Joint Standing Committee on
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**



Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A. §1893-C

Legislative Direction Leading to This Report

In 2005, the Legislature established an ATV Advisory Council, an ongoing advisory group set up to provide the Department of Conservation with advice and information on the management of the ATV Recreational Management Fund. In addition, the Advisory Council was charged with *special duties* to study specific ATV-related issues, and to report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by February 1, 2006. This report sets forth the findings and recommendations of the Council in response to its *special duties* mandate.

The Special Duties of the Advisory Council

The Legislature charged the advisory council with four special duties:

1. Study the feasibility of establishing an ATV trail pass and provide suggested legislation for such a system;
2. Review property access laws and land use issues regarding the operation of ATVs on private property;
3. Review the State's current age restrictions on the operation of ATVs and determine if those restrictions must be modified;
4. Review the recommendations of the Governor's ATV Task Force Report that have not already been enacted by the legislature and determine if it is economically feasible to implement any of those remaining recommendations.

Membership of the ATV Trail Advisory Council

The legislation creating the Advisory Council prescribed the following membership:

- Three members who represent local ATV clubs from different regions of the State that are ATV Recreational Management Fund grantees. One of these members must belong to both an ATV club and a snowmobile club;
- One member who represents municipal ATV Recreational Management Fund grantees;
- One member who represents a statewide organization with an interest in operating ATVs;
- One member who represents ATV and snowmobile business interests;
- One member who represents large landowner interests with land holdings of more than 250,000 acres;
- One member who represents a statewide environmental group;
- One member who represents a statewide farming organization;
- One member who represents woodlot owners' interests;
- The Bureau of Parks and Lands Director or the director's designee, who shall serve *ex officio* but may vote only to break a tie.

In addition, for the duration of its performance of special duties, two additional members serve on the advisory council:

- Two additional members appointed by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife to represent the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife.

Advisory Council Members

<p>Dave Anderson Topsham Trail Riders PO Box 421 Topsham, Me 04086 725-8779</p>	<p>Mr. Anderson is club Trail Master for a joint ATV-snowmobile club. He is one of the chief ATV Safety Institute instructors for Maine. Mr. Anderson represents clubs in southern Maine.</p>
<p>Joseph Benzing SWOAM PO Box 159 East Wakefield, NH 03830 793-8894</p>	<p>Mr. Benzing is a member of the SWOAM board and the owner of a 500-acre certified woodlot.</p>
<p>Paul Bernier Community Development Director PO Box 110 St. Agatha, Maine 04772 543-7305</p>	<p>Mr. Bernier is an economic development planner for Frenchville and St. Agatha. He works on municipal recreational trails grants for these towns. He brings extensive experience regarding recreation in northernmost Maine to the council.</p>
<p>Carl Campbell Aroostook Riders ATV Club PO Box 1224 Houlton, Maine 04730 532-6890</p>	<p>Mr. Campbell is a club president and is active in Maine Snowmobile Association issues. He understands snowmobile/ATV relations. He represents ATV interests in northern Maine.</p>
<p>Charlie Corliss Narraguagus ATV Club PO Box 453 Cherryfield, Maine 04622 546-9781</p>	<p>Mr. Corliss is a trail master for a club that shares trails and a clubhouse with snowmobilers. Mr. Corliss has extensive knowledge of LURC regulations and Atlantic Salmon issues. He represents clubs in eastern Maine.</p>
<p>Mark Doty Plum Creek 48 Capital Road West Forks, Me 04985663-4407</p>	<p>Mr. Doty is Unit Manager for Plum Creek, working out of the Marshall Yard in The Forks. He is responsible for working with a dozen ATV clubs to establish a designated trail system on Plum Creek land.</p>
<p>Dan Mitchell ATV Maine PO Box 25 Norridgewock, Me 04957 562-8873</p>	<p>Mr. Mitchell is President of ATV Maine, representing ATV clubs statewide. ATV Maine submitted the legislation that established the Advisory Council.</p>

<p>Scott Nadeau Maine Motor Sports Association 255 US Highway 202 Leeds, Me 04263 946-7767</p>	<p>Mr. Nadeau is employed by Reggie's Kawasaki and is Vice president of The Maine Motor Sports Association, representing all Maine ATV and Snowmobile dealers.</p>
<p>Jon Olson Maine Farm Bureau 4 Gabriel Drive Augusta, Me 04330 800-639-2126</p>	<p>Mr. Olson is the Executive Secretary of the Maine Farm Bureau. He served on the original Governor's ATV Task Force.</p>
<p>Tom Santaguida 284 State Street 41 State House Station Augusta, Me 04333 287-5240</p>	<p>Colonel Santaguida serves with the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. IF&W is the lead agency for ATV law enforcement.</p>
<p>Nancy Sferra Nature Conservancy 14 Maine Street Brunswick, Me 04011 729-5181 ext 212</p>	<p>Ms. Sferra is the Director of Science and Stewardship for The Nature Conservancy. She served on the original Governor's ATV Task Force.</p>
<p>Bill Swan 284 State Street 41 State House Station Augusta, Me 04333 287-5225</p>	<p>Mr. Swan is the Director of the Registration Division at the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. IF&W is responsible for registering ATVs.</p>

Summary of Meetings of the Council

The Advisory Council met six times over a four-month period in either Augusta or Bangor. Each of the meetings lasted six hours.

- The Advisory Council reviewed all of the original ATV Task Force Recommendations.
- The Advisory Council met with a representative of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to study New Hampshire's registration discount program. It also reviewed registration and fee information from the State of New York.
- The Advisory Council studied information from the Department of Conservation and the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife regarding programs and budgets.
- The Advisory Council members polled their respective constituents regarding several of the proposals that were brought forward.
- Several recommendations were made, and are included in this report.

A Review of Accomplishments in 2005 by the ATV Community

Remarkable progress has been made over the past year in developing Maine's ATV program, as witnessed by the following milestones:

- ✓ Through the efforts of ATV Maine and the Department of Conservation's ATV Program, more than 25 new ATV clubs have been formed, bringing the total number of ATV clubs in Maine to more than 125.
- ✓ Through the joint efforts of landowners, the Department of Conservation's ATV Program, and ATV clubs, the amount of state-approved ATV trails has doubled to over 4,000 miles of trails.
- ✓ In 2005, ATV trail grant funding produced 128 projects with expenditures of \$546,960. The amount of trail grants has increased by 250 % in the last two years
- ✓ A new updated ATV Map is under production by the Department of Conservation's ATV Program. The map highlights over 4,000 miles of ATV trail and the many ATV clubs that exist throughout the state. The map will be widely distributed across the state, especially at local ATV Clubs and the showrooms of ATV dealers.
- ✓ The Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and the Department of Conservation have worked with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to develop a curriculum for ATV law enforcement training. The first ATV Law Enforcement Academy was held in August of 2005. Funding for this program was provided through the Law Enforcement Grant-in-Aid Fund.
- ✓ The Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife awarded the first round of Law Enforcement Grants in August. A total of twenty-eight projects were submitted. Twenty-five were approved, totaling \$79,976.74 in grants.

- ✓ The Department of Conservation's ATV Program, working with the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, ATV Maine, the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, and URSUS Productions, has developed an ATV video called "ATV Trail to the Future". This video program explains recent changes to laws governing use of ATVs. The video is being distributed to clubs, dealers, landowners, and landowner groups throughout the state. It is also being used in ATV safety education training.
- ✓ ATV PSAs and 30-second advertisements have been developed and aired to educate ATV users about laws governing ATV use. These announcements will be aired again in the Spring of '06, ahead of the ATV season.
- ✓ The Department of Conservation and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife have worked together with the Dealers Association to develop a question and answer paper to help people understand their legal responsibilities as ATV operators. These sheets are on the Department web sites, and have been distributed in ATV Maine and dealer's publications as well.
- ✓ The Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife's Warden Service has worked to make sure that all enforcement staff, and also the staff of other law enforcement agencies, have a clear understanding of the ATV laws, to ensure that these laws are accurately and fairly enforced.
- ✓ The two Departments and ATV Maine have distributed a variety of literature, including maps, in the information centers on the Maine Interstate Highway System. Links between ATV Maine, dealers, and Department websites also have been established, making the flow of information easier.
- ✓ A new ATV safety video and interactive CD is under development, to be used in ATV safety courses and in schools. This effort is funded through the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund.
- ✓ Several large landowners or landowner groups are working with both the Department of Conservation's ATV Program and local clubs to fix problems and authorize new trail systems.
- ✓ Discussion is ongoing with the Maine Motor Sports Association and the ATV Manufacturers to encourage more responsible behavior among ATV user groups.

**Findings and Recommendations
In Response to the Legislature's
*Special Duties Assigned to the Advisory Council***

Special Duty No. 1: Study the feasibility of establishing an ATV trail pass and provide suggested legislation for a trail pass system.

Findings and Recommendations of the Advisory Council:

The Advisory Council does not recommend institution of a trail pass system. The goal of such a system is to raise funds for trail construction and maintenance. It is the recommendation of the Advisory Council that the best method to accomplish this goal is to increase registration fees to \$60 for both residents and non-residents. ATV club members should be offered a discount that will allow club members to register for \$30, in order to encourage club membership and make additional funds directly available to clubs. This program should be implemented beginning with the 2008 registration year.

Proposed legislation:

Title 12 § 13155 Registration Paragraph 5 Fees ~~The annual registration fee for an ATV is \$33 for a resident and \$68 for a non-resident.~~

The annual fee for an ATV Registration is \$60 for both residents and non-residents, except that an individual who shows proof, at the time of registration, of current membership in a Maine group that is in good standing and recognized by the Department of Conservation as a non-profit entity maintaining ATV trails for public use shall only pay \$30.

Special Duty No. 2: Review property access laws and land use issues regarding the operation of ATVs on private property.

Findings and Recommendations of the Advisory Council:

The Advisory Council unanimously and emphatically recommends NO CHANGE to existing laws requiring landowner permission to operate an ATV on the land of another. The Advisory Council undertook many hours of careful examination and discussion regarding the landowner permission requirement. In the end, the Council voted unanimously to recommend no change the language in *Title 12 Subsection 13157 A Operation of ATVs Paragraph 1-A Permission Required*. Most of the perceived problems with this law flowed from misinterpretation of the legal requirements. While there was much confusion early on in the enforcement of this law, the Council came to the firm, and even emphatic, conclusion that a great deal of progress has been made in educating the ATV-using public, that the law is working well. Maine has experienced a significant reduction in landowner complaints and a large increase in the number of ATV clubs and miles of ATV trail. The Council believes more time should be given to allow the law to work. The Council believes that further changes to the law at this time would introduce confusion among users, and would interfere with and impede the substantial progress made to date in addressing ATV issues on the Maine landscape.

With respect to the penalty section of the law, however, the Advisory Council recommends a change in the license suspension provision from “shall suspend” to “may suspend,” and the addition of language “for at least one year.” This change will make the revocation process similar to other license revocations processes.

Proposed legislation:

Title 12 § 10902 Suspension and Revocation Paragraph 9

9. Suspension for certain ATV violations; training. The commissioner ~~shall~~ may suspend for at least one year all licenses and permits, issued by the department pursuant to this Part and may suspend any registration to any person convicted or adjudicated of: [2005, c. 397, Pt. E, §3 (amd).]

A. Operating an ATV on a temporarily closed trail as prohibited under section 13157-A, subsection 24;

[2005, c. 397, Pt. E, §3 (amd).]

B. Abuse of another person's property as prohibited under section 13157-A, subsection 22; [2005, c. 397, Pt. E, §3 (amd).]

C. Operating an ATV under the influence under 21 years of age, as prohibited under section 10701, subsection 1-A, paragraph D, subparagraph (3);

[RR 2003, c. 2, §19 (cor).]

D. Operating an ATV to endanger, as prohibited under section 13157-A, subsection 11;

[2005, c. 397, Pt. E, §3 (amd).]

E. Reckless operation of an ATV, as prohibited under section 13157-A, subsection 10;

[2005, c. 397, Pt. E, §3 (amd).]

F. Operating an ATV on the land of another without permission, as prohibited under section 13157-A, subsection 1; or

[2005, c. 397, Pt. E, §3 (amd).]

G. Failure or refusal to stop an ATV or attempting to elude an officer, as prohibited under section 10651, subsection 1, paragraphs D and E.

Special Duty No. 3: Review the State's current age restrictions on the operation of ATVs and determine if those age restrictions must be modified.

Findings and Recommendations of the Advisory Council:

The Advisory Council recommends two changes:

- First, require all persons under the age of 19 to take a safety course to operate an ATV (raising the age limit from the current age limit of 16). This change was recommended by the Governor's task force, but deferred due to funding requirements. The Advisory Council believes training programs are effective; and
- Second, change the age at which one may operate an ATV without being accompanied by an adult and cross a road on an ATV to the same age as the age limit to cross a road on a snowmobile (a change from 16 years of age to 14 years of age). This change will introduce consistency and reduce confusion.

Proposed legislation:

Title 12 §13152 License and Training Paragraph 2. License and Training

1. License. An operator's license is not required for the operation of an ATV, except as required by Title 29-A. [2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (new); c. 614, §9 (aff).]

2. Training. A person over 9 years of age and under ~~16~~19 years of age must successfully complete a training program approved by the department prior to operating an ATV except on: [2005, c. 397, Pt. E, §17 (rpr).]

A. Land on which that person is domiciled;

[2005, c. 397, Pt. E, §17 (rpr).]

B. Land owned or leased by that person's parent or guardian; or

[2005, c. 397, Pt. E, §17 (rpr).]

C. A safety training site approved by the department.

[2005, c. 397, Pt. E, §17 (rpr).]

A person under 16 years of age must attend the training program with that person's parent or guardian. The training program must include instruction on the safe operation of ATVs, the laws pertaining to ATVs, the effect of ATVs on the environment and ways to minimize that effect, courtesy to landowners and other recreationists and landowners and other materials as determined by the department. [2005, c. 397, Pt. E, §17 (rpr).]

Title 12 § 13154-A Age Restrictions Paragraphs 3, 4, & 5

3. Unlawfully operating ATV by person 10 to under ~~16~~ 19 years of age. Except as provided in subsection 6, a person 10 years of age or older but under ~~16~~ 19 years of age may not operate an ATV unless that person has successfully completed a training course approved by the department pursuant to section 13152 ~~and is accompanied by an adult.~~ but those under 14 years of age must be accompanied by an adult [2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §404 (new); §422 (aff); c. 695, Pt. B, §12 (new); Pt. C, §1 (aff).]

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

[2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §404 (new); §422 (aff); c. 695, Pt. B, §12 (new); Pt. C, §1 (aff).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

[2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §404 (new); §422 (aff); c. 695, Pt. B, §12 (new); Pt. C, §1 (aff).]

4. Person under ~~16~~ 14 years of age crossing public way. A person under ~~16~~ 14 years of age may not cross a public way maintained for travel unless the crossing is in accordance with section 13157-A, subsection 6, paragraph A and the person satisfies the requirements of subsection 3. [2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §404 (new); §422 (aff); c. 695, Pt. B, §12 (new); Pt. C, §1 (aff).]

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

[2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §404 (new); §422 (aff); c. 695, Pt. B, §12 (new); Pt. C, §1 (aff).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

[2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §404 (new); §422 (aff); c. 695, Pt. B, §12 (new); Pt. C, §1 (aff).]

5. Permitting an unaccompanied person under ~~16~~ 14 years of age to operate an ATV. Except as provided in subsection 6, a person may not permit an unaccompanied person 10 years of age or older but under ~~16~~ 14 years of age to operate an ATV. [2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §404 (new); §422 (aff); c. 695, Pt. B, §12 (new); Pt. C, §1 (aff).]

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

[2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §404 (new); §422 (aff); c. 695, Pt. B, §12 (new); Pt. C, §1 (aff).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

[2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §404 (new); §422 (aff); c. 695, Pt. B, §12 (new); Pt. C, §1 (aff).]

Special Duty No. 4: Review the recommendations of the Governor's ATV Task Force Report that have not already been enacted by the legislature and determine if it is economically feasible to implement any of those remaining recommendations.

Findings and Recommendations of the Advisory Council:

The Advisory Council recommends five additional legislative changes:

1. Change and combine the road travel limit so that it is 500 yards for any crossing.

Proposed legislation:

Title 12 § 13157A Operation of ATVs Paragraph 6 A&B

6. Operating ATV on public way. Except as provided in this subsection, a person may not operate an ATV, other than an ATV registered with the Secretary of State under Title 29-A, on any portion of a public way maintained or used for the operation of conventional motor vehicles or on the sidewalks of any public way. [2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §414 (new); §422 (aff).]

A. A properly registered ATV may be operated on a public way only the distance necessary, but in no case to exceed ~~300~~ 500 yards, on the extreme right of the traveled way for the purpose of crossing, as directly as possible, a public way, bridge, overpass, underpass, sidewalk or culvert as long as that operation can be made safely and does not interfere with traffic approaching from either direction on the public way.

[2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §414 (new); §422 (aff).]

~~B. A properly registered ATV may be operated on a public way only the distance necessary, but in no case to exceed 500 yards, on the extreme right of the traveled way for the sole purpose of crossing, as directly as possible, a bridge, overpass or underpass, as long as that operation can be made in safety and that it does not interfere with traffic approaching from either direction on the public way.~~

[2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §414 (new); §422 (aff).]

C. An ATV may be operated on any portion of a public way when the public way has been closed in accordance with Title 23, section 2953.

[2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §414 (new); §422 (aff).]

D. An ATV may be operated on a public way that is not maintained or used for the operation of conventional motor vehicles, except that operation on the left side of the way is prohibited during the hours from sunset to sunrise.

[2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §414 (new); §422 (aff).]

E. An ATV may be operated on streets and public ways during a period of emergency when the emergency has been so declared by a police agency having jurisdiction and when travel by conventional motor vehicles is not practicable.

[2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §414 (new); §422 (aff).]

F. An ATV may be operated on streets and public ways in special events of limited duration conducted according to a prearranged schedule under a permit from the governmental unit having jurisdiction.

[2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §414 (new); §422 (aff).]

G. An ATV may be operated on a public way on the extreme right of the traveled way by a law enforcement officer for the sole purpose of traveling between the place where the ATV is usually stored and an area to be patrolled by the law enforcement officer.

[2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §414 (new); §422 (aff).]

H. Notwithstanding paragraphs A to G, an ATV may be operated on the extreme right of a public way of a municipality or an unorganized or unincorporated township if the appropriate governmental unit has designated the public way as an ATV-access route. A public way designated by an appropriate governmental unit as an ATV-access route must be posted conspicuously at regular intervals by that governmental unit with highly visible signs designating the ATV-access route. Before designating a public way as an ATV-access route, the appropriate governmental unit shall make appropriate determinations that ATV travel on the extreme right of the public way may be conducted safely and will not interfere with vehicular traffic on the public way. For purposes of this paragraph, "appropriate governmental unit" means the Department of Transportation, county commissioners or municipal officers within their respective jurisdictions. The jurisdiction of each appropriate governmental unit over public ways pursuant to this paragraph is the same as its jurisdiction over the passage of vehicles on public ways pursuant to Title 29-A, section 2395. Municipal or county law enforcement officials having jurisdiction have primary enforcement authority over any route established under this paragraph.

2. Create four part-time regional positions under the ATV Coordinator in the Department of Conservation to help the ATV Coordinator with club and trail development and landowner communications. These positions will be funded from current ATV Registration revenue within the ATV Recreation Management Fund.

3. Establish a dedicated revenue account at the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife for ATV Safety Training. Provide an additional \$5,000 a year in funding for public and youth awareness campaign materials, and seed money to help with other purchases, such as ATVs for hands-on training. Provide \$5,000 annually to provide displays, and materials, travel costs, etc., for the Recreational Safety Division to attend functions to promote ATV Safety and Awareness and landowner relations. Allocate \$19,000 annually to cover the personal service and all other cost of increasing mandatory safety training from under 16 years of age to under 19 years of age. The program needs a minimum budget of \$91,000 annually to cover existing programs plus the cost of the recommended age increase for mandatory safety training and the recommended public awareness campaign.

4. Place ATV Maine on the Landowner/Sportsmen Advisory Board and other similar councils and committees. ATV Maine is fast becoming a positive statewide force in the Maine ATV community, helping to educate and organize ATV users and helping to change behaviors. The Advisory Council believes the effort ATV Maine has put forth in the last two years establishes that this statewide organization deserves the opportunity to be directly involved in future discussions of the problems facing ATV use in Maine, and the solutions to those problems.

5. We encourage the Law Enforcement Grant Committee should make the program as flexible as possible. Programs should be flexible enough to allow law enforcement details to be scheduled or rescheduled when necessary due to unforeseen events, such as bad weather or problem areas, without losing grant funding.

What Remains Undone?

Although great progress has been made in the development of ATV programs in the State of Maine, much more need to be done. It is beyond the scope of the work of the Advisory Council to attempt to address all issues facing the ATV community in Maine, nor does the short time-line for the issuance of this report allow for such a comprehensive review. We take this opportunity, however, to note the following issues:

- An authoritative trail construction handbook should be prepared by the Department of Conservation. Lack of staffing for the ATV program has stymied the development of this important resource.
- At DOC, one full-time person handles the Club Grants and Municipal Grants, coordinates Club development, supervises GPS mapping, negotiates landowner permits, and carries out all of the work of the program. Obviously, current staffing levels are inadequate to responsibly discharge the ever-increasing responsibilities of the Department in this important area of recreation opportunity. Without additional help many of the goals laid out in the original Governor's ATV Task Force will not be accomplished. This issue is more of a lack of staffing issue than a lack of funding issue.
- An agreement must be reached with the federal Government regarding the use of federal funds on multi-use trails where ATVs are allowed. Currently, federal funds may not be used on such trails if ATVs are present. Discussions involving the Maine Department of Transportation, the Maine Department of Conservation, and the Federal Department of Transportation, facilitated by the Federal Park Service Rivers and Trails program, are underway, but no agreement has been reached as yet.
- A brochure to explain landowner rights, protections, and potential tax break opportunities should be produced. This is a lack of staffing issue more than a lack of funding issue.
- A fund dedicated to acquiring land for sport riding facilities should be established. The Council believes this needs to be discussed further and acted upon. Further study is needed to determine how much money would be needed and where those funds would come from.

- Creation of a fund dedicated for damage mitigation needs further discussion and exploration. While the Council notes that such a fund could be difficult and expensive to manage, landowner damage is an important issue that needs to be monitored for the possibility of a program in the future.
- Creation of a dedicated Capital Equipment Fund similar to the Snowmobile Program's needs further discussion and exploration.
- The task of defining an ATV in law was deferred while ATV Maine and the Maine Snowmobile Association negotiate an agreement on ATV and snowmobile definitions. It is expected that this would be submitted as a separate piece of legislation.
- The Advisory Council discussed liability insurance limits, but the issue remains unresolved. The Maine statute (Limited Liability for Recreational or Harvesting activities ***Title 14 MRSA § 159-A*** provides apparently adequate protection for landowners, clubs, and club membership, yet some landowners would like additional liability protection. Attempts to purchase high (\$2 million) levels of insurance have either been unsuccessful or so hugely expensive as to be unaffordable. Self-insurance should be explored in concert with the Maine Snowmobile Association and other recreation organizations that use privately-owned land.